

14 CCR § 913.4, 933.4, 953.4 Special Prescriptions

(f) Montane Hardwood Stand Management. Conifers within certain historic oak woodlands as described herein may be harvested in order to avoid conversion of Montane Hardwood stands to conifer dominated stands, and to restore or retain the ecological or economic values of Montane Hardwood stands. Projects using this prescription shall be designed to balance the contribution of resource values attributable to Montane Hardwood stands with the other goals of forest management specified in 14 CCR § 897, and shall meet the following requirements:

- (1) The prescription is applicable in the Coast and Northern Forest Districts.
- (2) The prescription may be applied to stands that have historically exhibited the character of a montane hardwood vegetative type, as identified by FRAP vegetative typing, or another established California vegetative typing system in which Garry oak or California black oak are the major species comprising the vegetative type.
- (3) The RPF shall provide the following in the plan in sufficient detail for review and evaluation:
 - (A) Identify the vegetation classification for the stand that meets this criterion, the author and citation for the published work, and provide a copy of published type maps of the area, if available.
 - (B) A description of natural or anthropogenic factors that have contributed to the sustained presence of a Montane Hardwood-dominated stand. This may include soil or geologic characteristics, fire history, and past management practices.
 - (C) A description of apparent trend in stand composition over time and the factors likely to be contributing to this trend.
 - (D) An estimate of the pre and post-harvest species composition, diameter distribution by species, and basal area by species.
- (4) Immediately after harvest the area must meet the minimum resource conservation standards of 14 CCR § 912.7 (b)(2) with a combination of Group A species, California black oak, and Garry oak. Group A species may not make up more than 20% of the post-harvest basal area of the stand.
- (5) Timberland productivity and MSP requirements, pursuant to 14 CCR §§ 933.10, 953.10, 933.11, and 953.11 are compatible with implementing this prescription.

Accompanying Thoughts for Discussion:

Unlike the relatively discreet stands of aspen, montane oaks may be fully interspersed as a component of conifer forests. Aspen is not a commercial species, and so is more difficult to fit into the FPRs.

We may need to define what types of stands we want to apply this to (i.e. define Montane Hardwood Stand), and where they are (i.e. Northern and Coast Districts). The use of recognized vegetation classification systems, FRAP vegetation data, or professional reliance on the RPF, may be the basis for determining eligibility for the application of this Special Prescription.

This is a potential weakness to the rule and needs to be nailed down.

It's apparent that a definition of Montane Hardwood Stands in 895.1 would be appropriate.

We may also want to apply this to the Coast and Northern Districts only. Though it is the Southern District that has the oak retention rule, it does not have the vegetation types that are being targeted for this rule, to my knowledge. We do not want the rule to be applied too broadly.

As I anticipate that this will be part of a THP or other Plan, as defined in 895.1, the normal mapping rules apply. This prescription is no different than Variable Retention or Fuelbreak Special Prescriptions. Thus there is no need for any special mapping requirements.